



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

Raised Bill No. 973

LCO No. 3447



Referred to Committee on PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS

Introduced by:
(PRI)

***AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS
COMMITTEE CONCERNING HIGHER EDUCATION CERTIFICATE
PROGRAMS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) As used in this section and
2 sections 2 to 5, inclusive, of this act:

3 (1) "Sub-baccalaureate certificate" means a postsecondary award
4 earned on a for-credit or noncredit basis and conferred upon successful
5 completion of a formal program of study below the baccalaureate
6 level;

7 (2) "Public institution of higher education" has the same meaning as
8 provided in section 10a-173 of the general statutes;

9 (3) "Independent for-profit institution of higher education" means a
10 for-profit institution established in this state (A) that has degree-
11 granting authority in this state, (B) that has its main campus located in

12 this state, (C) that is not included in the Connecticut system of public
13 higher education, and (D) whose primary function is not the
14 preparation of students for religious vocation;

15 (4) "Independent institution of higher education" has the same
16 meaning as provided in section 10a-173 of the general statutes;

17 (5) "Private occupational school" has the same meaning as provided
18 in section 10a-22a of the general statutes;

19 (6) "Hospital-based occupational school" means any hospital
20 authorized pursuant to section 10a-22b of the general statutes to offer
21 instruction in any form or manner in any trade, industrial, commercial,
22 service, professional or other occupation for any remuneration,
23 consideration, reward or promise, except to hospital employees,
24 members of the medical staff and training for contracted workers;

25 (7) "Barber school" means any program, school or other entity
26 authorized pursuant to section 10a-22b of the general statutes to offer
27 instruction in any form or manner in barbering for any remuneration,
28 consideration, reward or promise; and

29 (8) "Hairdressing school" means any program, school or other entity
30 authorized pursuant to section 10a-22b of the general statutes to offer
31 instruction in any form or manner in hairdressing for any
32 remuneration, consideration, reward or promise.

33 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) (a) Not later than July 1, 2016,
34 the Office of Higher Education shall develop and maintain a cost and
35 outcome reporting system to provide information to the public about
36 all sub-baccalaureate certificates awarded by the public, independent
37 for-profit, and independent nonprofit institutions of higher education
38 and the private occupational, hospital-based occupational, barber, and
39 hairdressing schools in this state. Not later than January 1, 2017, and
40 annually thereafter, each public, independent for-profit, and
41 independent nonprofit institution of higher education and private

42 occupational, hospital-based occupational, barber, and hairdressing
43 school shall provide data for the prior academic year regarding its sub-
44 baccalaureate certificate programs and the types of sub-baccalaureate
45 certificates it offers to said office in a uniform format developed by
46 said office. Not later than July 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, said
47 office shall publish such data on its Internet web site for purposes of
48 allowing basic comparisons among similar types of sub-baccalaureate
49 certificate programs offered by such institutions and schools and any
50 additional information concerning such certificate programs said office
51 chooses to publish. The information provided by the cost and outcome
52 reporting system for each such certificate program shall include, if
53 applicable to the certificate program:

54 (1) Tuition and fees charged to a student who completes the
55 certificate program in the time period prescribed by such program;

56 (2) Costs relating to the purchase of books and supplies, unless such
57 costs are included as part of the tuition and fees of such institution or
58 school for such program;

59 (3) Median loan debt incurred by students who complete a for-
60 credit certificate program or a noncredit certificate program, separately
61 by Title IV loans and other education debt, including private and
62 institutional loans;

63 (4) Total enrollment in and number of certificates awarded by such
64 program;

65 (5) Basic demographic information of the students enrolled in such
66 program, including, but not limited to, gender, age, race and ethnicity;

67 (6) Graduation rates for student cohorts completing such program;

68 (7) Average length of time to complete such program;

69 (8) Job placement rates for students who have completed such
70 program;

71 (9) Entry level starting salary based on Labor Department statistics
72 for jobs requiring the certificate;

73 (10) Average salary based on Labor Department statistics for jobs
74 requiring the certificate;

75 (11) Cohort pass rate for national certification programs; and

76 (12) Cohort state licensure pass rate for positions requiring the
77 certificate and licensure.

78 (b) Each public, independent for-profit, and independent nonprofit
79 institution of higher education or private occupational, hospital-based
80 occupational, barber, and hairdressing school that offers a sub-
81 baccalaureate certificate program shall publish such information on its
82 Internet web site as prominently as the certificate program description
83 appears on such Internet web site.

84 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) Each public, independent for-
85 profit, and independent nonprofit institution of higher education and
86 private occupational, hospital-based occupational, barber, and
87 hairdressing school shall develop for each sub-baccalaureate certificate
88 program it offers a one-page fact sheet that provides basic information
89 regarding such program to potential applicants, including, but not
90 limited to, tuition, fees, costs of books and supplies, room and board,
91 graduation and job placement rates and average student debt.

92 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) (a) The Board of Regents for
93 Higher Education shall establish a working group comprised of deans
94 of continuing education programs at the regional community-technical
95 colleges to review all of the noncredit sub-baccalaureate certificate
96 programs offered by each regional community-technical college. Not
97 later than July 1, 2016, the working group shall design a uniform
98 naming convention for such programs to enable students to
99 distinguish between noncredit certificate programs with similar yet
100 varied requirements within the same field of study. Programs that

101 vary shall be uniformly designated with indications of different,
102 enhanced or more demanding requirements.

103 (b) Not later than July 1, 2016, and periodically thereafter as
104 prescribed by the Board of Regents for Higher Education, the working
105 group shall review the tuition of uniformly named sub-baccalaureate
106 certificate programs leading to the same qualifications to determine if
107 any cost variations in the tuition and fees for such program are
108 reasonable.

109 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) Not later than January 1, 2017,
110 the Office of Higher Education shall develop a program to annually
111 audit not less than a sample of student data from all sub-baccalaureate
112 certificate programs offered by the public, independent for-profit, and
113 independent nonprofit institutions of higher education and the private
114 occupational, hospital-based occupational, barber, and hairdressing
115 schools.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To implement the recommendations of the legislative program review and investigations committee concerning higher education certificate programs.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]